



The Guardian

VOLUME 39, Issue 3 March 2008

City's Dirty Tactics Unite SPOG!

By The Guardian Staff



Over 200 SPOG Members packed the room on February 27th during the February General Membership Meeting seeking answers after the City's February 26th direct bargaining attempt.

The Seattle Police Officers' Guild is appalled at the latest tactics being employed by the City of Seattle.

Members of the command staff have taken the unprecedented step of direct bargaining with members of the Guild. This is not only an Unfair Labor Practice, but it clearly violates the confidentiality rules that both the city and the guild agreed to at the start of bargaining.

The Seattle Police Officers' Guild agreed to meet outside of bargaining to discuss the Mayor's

Accountability Recommendations. SPOG was under no obligation to enter into those discussions. Again, both parties agreed to strict confidentiality in regards to all matters discussed.

The City has broken the rules and violated our trust. SPOG is planning swift and immediate action, including filing an Unfair Labor Practice. The SPOG leadership will continue to keep our membership informed as we respond to these actions.

Please see "Informational Picketing" on page 6 for more information on the next steps for SPOG and what you can do to help.

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Guardian

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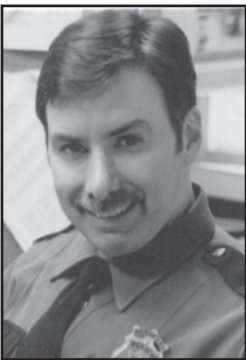
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President's Message

By Sergeant Rich O'Neill, SPOG President



A week like no other, in a city like no other! The week of February 26th began quite regularly. I had already finished my *Guardian* article and I was looking forward to a full and busy week. Monday morning I met with Chief Kerlikowske for our usual monthly meeting. I enjoy these meetings as I think it is important to share some things in an informal setting without all the food-tasters listening in. Our meeting was uneventful as I briefed the Chief on some personnel matters and also on the status of our contract deliberations. Just like my *Guardian* article, I expressed that there was room for optimism and that the “discussions” over the past three weeks had brought both sides closer than ever before. The Chief told me that he was flying to the East Coast later in the day and our meeting ended. Monday afternoon we had an organizational meeting for informational picketing. About 30 officers showed up and volunteered as organizers. We discussed many things, including the fact that we may not have to resort to the pickets if progress during our “discussions” continued. Then came Tuesday!

Let me just back up a bit and explain these “discussions.” We have been negotiating with the city since June 2006. In August 2006 we entered state appointed mediation. The mediator ordered that all offers had to be on the table and in writing by the end of that month. Both sides complied. We then met off and on for well over a year. In the interim, the Mayor organized a blue ribbon panel to study police accountability. Although we had no obligation to participate, SPOG cooperated with the panel and I offered testimony before the group. The group did a fine job and we praised their efforts when they released their findings last month. We correctly stated that all of the items on the table for this new contract have been there since August 2006. Because of that, the recommendations from the blue ribbon panel that need to be bargained would have to wait until the next contract. I was then contacted by members of the city side who asked if we’d be interested in at least “discussing” these recommendations away from the mediator and the bargaining table. I told them that we were frustrated that we still don’t have a contract and now they were asking us to consider additional items that we are not obligated to discuss. I was assured that these discussions could very well lead to a new contract. After much discussion, we agreed to meet with them away from the bargaining table. The city expressed appreciation that we had agreed to “discuss.” At our first meeting, which was held at the SPOG office, we began with “ground rules” for these discussions. THE CITY brought up CONFIDENTIALITY and mentioned that EVERYTHING had to stay “BETWEEN THESE FOUR WALLS.” We agreed and it was good that they brought it up because we would not have continued, if we didn’t have an agreement. (Note to self...next time get it in writing, but hey, I thought someone’s word meant something.)

We met and discussed many things over the next couple of weeks. There were offers and counter offers. I cannot discuss ANY of the details because SPOG will stand by our agreement to be confidential. At times, it reminded me of buying a car and they even brought in “the closer.” “Sorry, I still don’t want the undercoating or fabric protection!” I will say this. We were closer than we had ever been in the last year and a half. Then came Tuesday. I arrived to work and began setting up for our annual SPOG shop-steward and board training. Each year we put on a full, one day class to cover a wide variety of issues. We had attorneys who were giving presentations on labor issues, Garrity Rights, and the role of the SPOG representative in an officer involved shooting. Early into our training day, the phone in the SPOG office began to ring off the hook. The office staff finally interrupted the class and told me that “something big was going on.” I couldn’t imagine what it could be, as like I said earlier, I had just met with the Chief the day before and nothing earth shattering was discussed. As I took a phone call from a very irate member, I couldn’t believe what I was hearing. Apparently, the Assistant Chiefs and Deputy Chiefs were out at the precincts handing out an economic proposal directly to the members of SPOG. I first thought maybe they were just talking in generalities with no real facts or numbers. I was then faxed a copy of their “talking points.” I was outraged! Not only were they direct

bargaining, but they had broken their word on confidentiality. Since becoming president I have strived to have good communication and foster good relationships with the command staff, the politicians, and even most of the press. This action was unprecedented. The sheet handed out had inaccuracies, and less than half-truths! It was designed by someone to try and divide our union by floating some numbers in the hope that members would revolt against SPOG and want to “take the money and run.” Well, the exact opposite happened. Our phones and e-mails were so busy that we could not keep up. Officers were outraged at these roll call presentations! One officer commented that they never see the command staff at roll calls and the one time they see them, they bring this “Kool-Aid” presentation. Our SPOG attorney quickly left the training session and began working on an Unfair Labor Practice (which was filed by the end of the week.) I made phone calls to City Hall and expressed my outrage that our confidentiality agreement was broken by their actions. I was then shocked when I was told the following: “We never agreed to confidentiality.” See, my comparison to buying a used car did fit! I knew at that point that people will lie to justify their actions. Hey, call the OPA, order an investigation, summon the ethics officer....City Hall is Lying! Our SPOG reps were dispatched to the night roll calls to try and “counter” this illegal presentation. I went to the third watch roll calls and the outrage by officers had not simmered. One officer asked if the command staff really thought that officers would just accept “some numbers on a page” without any consideration for what was in the rest of the contract.

Another officer said it best when he said, “Chief, we elect our SPOG reps to negotiate on our behalf at the bargaining table. When our SPOG reps feel that the offer is worth presenting to us, they will do it. Why are you here doing it?” I could not have said it better! What “policy wonk” came up with this idea? What City Hall staff attorney gave their blessing to this? Was it the same people who advised Nick Licata that his recently struck down ordinance was a good idea? Tuesday night I had trouble sleeping, to say the least.

On Wednesday, the calls and e-mails continued to pour in. I spoke with several former SPOG presidents who said that this was unprecedented. I learned that while the Chief of Police was on the east coast, the deputy chiefs and assistant chiefs were summoned to the Mayor’s office. They were ordered to give these presentations. I will also say that I have learned that several people in the department expressed outrage and an opinion that this idea was a big mistake. They were overruled. I was also told that the Chief knew nothing about these presentations. At this moment I’m not real trusting, as you could expect. If that is true though, I am really troubled that members of the Mayor’s staff could thrust themselves into the operations of the police department and order command staff to commit a violation of labor law. Isn’t that a slap in the Chief’s face that these “staff people of the Mayor” can order his staff around? I had one officer tell me that they lost a lot of respect for the command staff for going along with this. I told the officer that they were given a direct order, but the officer felt that illegal and unethical orders should not be followed.

On Wednesday afternoon I drove to Arlington to watch my son play high school basketball in a district playoff game at 6p.m. Following the game, I drove back down to the SPOG office (observing all posted speed signs) to take part in the monthly membership meeting. I arrived a little late and as I entered the building, I almost became emotional. There were officers everywhere. The chairs and tables had to be taken out to allow the overflowing crowd to stand. Officers were crammed into every available space. The back door was open and officers were standing outside. It was the proudest moment I have ever had as SPOG president when the officers applauded. The officers were fired up and outraged at the actions of the city! Our new secretary treasurer, Mike Severance, did a fine job of taking the minutes for the meeting. It was tough having to edit most of the “adjectives” from the officer’s comments. Officers signed up for informational picketing and many signed payroll deduction forms to join our PAC.

On my way home, I thought that I should send a thank you note to City Hall for unifying the Guild in a way I have never seen in my 28 years. Just think, someone actually thought

President's Message

Continued from Page 2

that this was a good idea. It is scary to think that these people advise the Mayor on other issues. In the interest of fair reporting, I did hear from one dues paying member who thought the offer was good. How can anyone say it was good, when they didn't see what they'd be giving up to get it? I guess for at least one member it wouldn't matter. That is really scary! The rest of my week concluded with more calls and e-mails from retired officers and citizen groups who want to support us. I will be speaking at three community council meetings as they want to know what they can do to support SPOG. More invitations are coming in. These people want more officers. They are intelligent enough to know that we will not solve the staffing crisis without a really good contract. Many of these citizens told me that they either belong to a union or they have a family member who belongs to a union. Union people recognize what the city tried to do. More than 40 officers have applications into other departments. Many more have told me that they are just waiting to see what happens with this deal and if it is not a good one, they will be leaving also. This is a worse crisis than not being able to attract new recruits. Losing experienced, veteran officers really hurts this department. So many agencies are hiring that officers feel like "free agents." Who can blame them for looking out for the best interests of their families? I do not see how we could absorb a loss of that many officers in operations. The really sad part is that some in city hall don't want to acknowledge the facts. Officers are insulted when they are given an offer to make them "the best paid in Puget Sound." No offense to other departments, but the RCW lists our comparable cities. No other city in Washington is even on the list. Maybe someone in the Mayors staff could tell him that and while there at it, let him know that SPD officers are 24.7% behind the AVERAGE of the West

Coast seven. My other message to these citizen groups will be this: This city, under the current leadership, has contributed to the staffing crisis. They continue to dump on officers with these types of hardball tactics. Last contract, we went more than two years without a deal. Unless someone really steps up and shows some leadership, this thing will not be settled before two years passes again. I will also proclaim that if the city forces us to arbitration and they “win” by hosing us with a poor deal, they will actually lose. The flood gates at SPD will open and many, many officers will leave. Now, if I was an elected official, do I want that to happen on my watch? So where are we going from here? We are preparing for informational picketing. We will be asking other city unions, citizens and retired officers to join us. It will not be a one-shot deal. We are planning on numerous dates with numerous locations. Sooner or later the “Big Democrat-Pro Labor” politicians may get tired of seeing us when they just want a “quick photo-op” at some parade or event. We will be organized and we will be professional. The dates are being decided by the SPOG board and we will get the word out. Now, with all

that said, let me say, that I don't want to go down this road. I know of no officer who wants to spend their off time standing on some sidewalk with a sign, but perhaps the time has come. This city tried to divide our union! I call it union busting. Other unions view it the same way. It can still be avoided. I am calling on the Mayor to instruct his "advisors" to check their egos at the door and admit when they are wrong. A deal can be and must be reached. The consequences for not getting it done will be devastating for the police department and the citizens that we serve. SPOG has always been willing to negotiate in good faith. This time, however, we will get our ground rules in writing before we start. Yes, it was truly a week like no other, in a city like no other. It started out rough but in the end your display of unity made me so proud to serve you.

Lastly, I'd like to encourage everyone to consider attending the Motorcycle Drill Team Talent Show and dinner on

Friday, March 22 at the Range Pavilion. SPOG will be presenting the Officer of the Year Award before the show. It is truly a relaxed and fun event as you watch your fellow officers up on stage. There is also a fun dance immediately following the show. We need opportunities like this to unwind and enjoy a few laughs. I'll see you there. Let's stay united and always be safe!

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Give Us The Tools

By Officer Mike Severance, SPOG Secretary-Treasurer

The Neighborhood Policing Plan is here. The city paid a consultant to produce a computer model, a mathematical formula, to make things “better”. The consultant and the Brass repeatedly said we need 100+ more officers to make the plan work. The plan has been implemented without those extra bodies. One big chunk of data that went into constructing the computer model was the down time for report writing. Unfortunately, that input involved old report forms, not Spider forms. The computer model is no longer valid and needs to be updated for Spider. In my humble opinion, in order to make the plan work with Spider, we will need 400-500 more officers if the department wants the response times it has promised. If it seems like we have fewer officers at work since the plan started, that’s because we do, about 7% fewer because of the squad and furlough changes. And I have been told 49 of our officers are currently being back-grounded by other agencies to which they have applied. No big deal. That’s only 11% of our patrol officers. As usual, we remaining worker bees will do our best with the cards dealt us. Alas, I don’t think even our best will be good enough to save this particular plan. You can’t drive from here to LA on half a tank of gas.

I’m honored to have been given the opportunity to serve you as the Secretary/Treasurer of SPOG. Besides my normal duties, I do have something special in mind. That is to work to re-arm our dwindling number of officers and give us access to common tools of our trade and technologies we are forbidden to use. Our current staffing crisis is deplorable and getting worse. Forcing fewer and fewer officers to do this job with fewer weapons and tools is beyond my ability to comprehend. We don’t even have enough patrol

cars for the officers we do have. How lame is that?

In our profession, is there anything more important than the safety of our officers? Our Command Staff hasn’t worked the streets since the Reagan administration, and their actions just are not consistent with a concern for our safety. They have lost touch with the streets. Some have forgotten their law enforcement roots while others never had any roots to forget. They all seem to have forgotten it took only two North Hollywood bank robbers to hold more than 350 LA officers at bay for a long, long time.

Today we face potential threats worse than that, and when could we even find 350 on-duty SPD officers? Why did the Brass take all the shotguns out of our patrol cars, and how did that improve our safety? In a post 9-11 world, why would they disarm us? For most of my career, a shotgun was a fixture in every patrol car. It was there to give officers some extra firepower in those situations we hope will never happen.

A shotgun helped me to live through one of those situations. If the Brass wants a patrol shotgun program with tricked out special weapons and ammo, that’s fine with me. But don’t deny the rest of us immediate access to the firepower of one of the most proven weapons in law enforcement history. Why do most of us work one-officer cars while armed with only a handgun? I guess we could always throw Spider report forms and GPS antennas at the bad guys. Current policy does not guarantee any of us the Command Staff’s “blessing” and permission to take the training and carry a shotgun and/or a patrol rifle. Probationary officers and officers with less than two years experience are not even considered worthy to apply. They are issued a

handgun and assigned to the streets. They face the same dangers as all of us. Why does it take a year or two for them to be considered worthy to even ask to carry common tools of our trade? Look at King County PD. All their new officers are issued a handgun and a shotgun. As soon as they graduate from the academy, they can carry an AR-15 as long as they can qualify with it, although they might have to buy the rifle with their own money. At least their Brass has demonstrated a rational post 9-11 mentality and a concern for the safety of their troops.

NIOSH/CBRN respirators, certified for radiation and which allow an officer to hydrate while wearing them, are issued only after an officer has attended CBRN training. If a dirty bomb goes off in this city, will not the radiation be carried on the winds and affect all of us, CBRN training or not? The federal government does not certify our old Advantage 1000 mask for radiation, but I am told SPD does. How does an officer with an Advantage 1000 take a drink of water? They must first take off the mask.

All SPD tasers have a laser sight. All patrol shotguns and patrol rifles have tactical lights. But we are forbidden to use either of these proven technologies on our pistols. For the record, I think every SPD officer should be issued a handgun and a shotgun. We should have bi-annual qualifications, and qualification with both should be a condition of employment. Every officer should be issued a taser. Every officer, at **their** option, should be allowed to carry an AR-15 rifle. If the City can’t or won’t buy them, the officer should be allowed to buy their own. Passing initial training and qualification, and subsequent annual qualification with the rifle should be mandatory conditions for carrying it on duty. We should be allowed the option of using laser sights or tactical lights on our pistols. And every officer on this department, who does not have one, should immediately be issued a respirator that is NIOSH/CBRN certified for radiation related incidents and which allows officers to hydrate while wearing them.

Thanks to the Weapons Training Unit of the Los Angeles County Sheriff, one of multiple U.S. agencies which allow the use of laser sights, I have some interesting data. LASD has about 8,400 sworn personnel. Every one of their patrol cars has a shotgun in it. The shotgun is considered their primary firearm as it is easier to aim/shoot, has far greater wound effectiveness at street combat ranges than handguns, and their hit ratio with the shotgun is twice that of handguns. They have allowed their deputies the option of using Crimson Trace laser sights on their pistols for more than 5

years. Their deputies must buy them, go to 4 hours of training on their own time, and qualify. Currently, 15%, about 1,260 of their deputies have opted to buy them and use them. Before being approved for general use, a three month field test was conducted using 12 volunteer deputies. During the test period, those deputies lased more than 150 suspects. In all but one case, as soon as the suspect saw the red dot, the deputy got immediate compliance. Deadly force did not have to be used in any of those cases. LASD Brass had reservations before allowing their use. They thought there would be multiple complaints from people who were lased without cause. There have not been **any** such complaints.

Their Brass thought officers would use the laser as a “crutch” and forget how to use their open sights. That has not happened either in a department almost seven times bigger than SPD. For some reason, LASD deputies with laser sights have not been involved in that many shooting incidents, but there have been some. In 2004, two deputies with laser sights were charged by a knife-wielding suspect. The deputies fired 8 shots. 8 shots hit the suspect.

Why would our Command Staff not jump at the opportunity to allow us the option of using a tool that has proven its ability to de-escalate potential deadly force situations for more than three decades? Is it because of their overwhelming concern for our safety?

But what the hell do I know? I’m just a lowly street cop whose office is a patrol car. But I do know I’ve worked the streets for almost 38 years and survived three shootings. Unless experience means nothing, I know I’m more than qualified to recognize what would be beneficial to our officers, give us an added advantage, and improve our chances of seeing retirement. **WE ARE THE FIRST RESPONDERS.** Give us a chance. Give us the tools.

The net staffing change for 2008 is -2 pending a new Personnel Order. The net staffing change since January 2006 is -5. On January 8, 2008 NYPD swore in 1,028 new police recruits.

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New SPAA officers will be sworn in and a short business meeting will follow.

Event Reminder for Police Families

March 12, 2008
5:45 to 9:00pm

Topic: “The Courage to Make Life Changing Decisions and Explore Ways to Sustain Your Family Strength”

Speakers: Dr. Dan Clark, WSP Psychologist and Chief Annetta Nunn, Birmingham Alabama PD, Retired

****Dinner provided courtesy of SPOG****

Please RSVP at familiesinpolicing@yahoo.com

What Does My Officer Do?

By Kim Bruce, SPD Family Support Group

Have you ever wished you could better understand your officer? What about knowing what questions to ask to get him/her to talk about his/her day?

As a spouse of a police officer I took it upon myself to learn what he does and why. This showed him I supported his decision to become an officer. Even if you are unsure about wanting your family member becoming an officer there are ways for you to help keep him/her safe.

To get an inside look at the job of an officer I strongly suggest you go on a ride along with another officer. This will give you a first hand knowledge of the patrol area, the type of people dealt with on a daily basis and the type of support provided by other officers. You are also in a car with your own personal font of information.

There is a Citizens Academy put on through the Seattle Police Department. This will walk you through the job of a police officer. You will hear speakers from a variety of departments. There will be plenty of opportunities to get questions answered as well.

For the 14-21 year old there is the Explorers Program. The mission of the Seattle Police Law Enforcement Exploring program is to bridge the gap between youth and police by educating and involving them in police operations and to interest them in Law Enforcement. Exploring can

further each Explorer’s education, encourage the Explorer’s participation in a rewarding and productive service activity, and enhance the Explorer’s preparation for future roles as citizen and community members. Besides gaining a working knowledge of police work, the participants have the opportunity to give of themselves to their community. Here’s where you can find info on the Explorer program: <http://www.seattle.gov/police/programs/youth/explorers.htm>

Getting involved with volunteer opportunities in the department can give you a new view and knowledge of your officers work environment. This is also a great way to learn what is available to you as a family member. Please visit the SPD webpage that talks about how to “get involved” w/SPD: <http://www.cityofseattle.net/police/involved/>.

For me personally when my husband first became a police officer, I enjoy inviting other police families over for dinner. This gave me a chance to get to know who my spouse works with, who’s got his back. Another benefit is that officers tend to remember more about what happened at work when they are with other officers. It is a great chance for me to listen, learn and understand what he does. The spouse is also a great source of support.

For further information about the SPD Family Support Group, contact us at SPGFSG@yahoo.com.

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Officer of the Month

By Officer Christopher Hall, West Precinct



Vice President Roger Dixon congratulates Officer Christine Nichols of the SW Precinct who was voted Officer of the Month for February 2008

The SPOG Officer of the Month for February 2008 is Officer Christine Nichols of the SouthWest Precinct, as nominated by Sergeant Joel Sweetland for her determined work on a suicide call.

On January 21st Officer Nichols was dispatched to an apartment on Alki to investigate a possible suicide attempt. The friends of the victim had received text messages to go to her apartment. When the friends arrived they found detailed suicide notes left by the victim directing the friends to take care of her pets and possessions. The friends told Officer Nichols that the victim had previously attempted suicide and was “serious”. 911 provided the further information that the victim had talked to a crisis clinic and the victim’s cell phone was last located in the area of Alaskan Way and Clay St. Attempts to call the victim were ignored and the victim turned her cell phone off.

Officer Nichols responded with a thorough and exhaustive effort to locate the victim. She enlisted multiple other officers and directed the search effort while ensuring the victim’s business, friends, typical hangout spots, boats, and vehicles were all checked and accounted for. The waterfront area from Myrtle Edwards Park to the Coleman Ferry dock was checked and re-checked by Officer Nichols and other officers. Nearly three hours after the initial call the victim was still not located.

Rather than close the call Officer Nichols contacted her supervisor and requested that additional resources be used including K9 and Guardian One. She personally contacted the cell phone company that had provided the victim location and she contacted the person from the crisis center who had last spoken to the victim. She gathered new and critical information about the victim’s possible location. Acting on this information Officer Nichols and back-up officers located the victim inside a hotel room. The victim had ingested a fatal overdose of prescription medication and alcohol and was nearly unconscious. SFD Medics arrived and transported the victim to HMC where she began recovery. The victim’s life was saved because of Officer Nichols’ resourcefulness and her refusal to give up the search.

As the Officer of the Month, Officer Nichols has selected the Help the Officer Fund as the recipient of the \$250.00 SMCU donation.



Thank You to SMCU for their generous donation to the Help the Officer Fund in the name of Officer of the Month, Officer Christine Nichols. Your contribution is greatly appreciated!

Informational Picketing



Over 30 members met on February 25th at the Informational Picketing Captains Meeting

SPOG is in the final planning stages to launch a series of informational picketing, aimed at raising public awareness that SPOG has been working without a labor contract for 15+ months. A new labor contract with a substantial pay raise is integral to recruiting new officers to SPD, as well as retaining our own veterans, who have been leaving the department at an alarming rate. The city does not seem willing to do what it takes to get a contract done, so SPOG’s hand is forced to under take informational picketing. If you would like to volunteer to walk the picket line, please contact Tom McLaughlin at boardpos2@seattlepoliceguild.org, or call the SPOG office at 206-767-1150. We invite all current and retired police officers as well as family, friends, community members and pro-labor acquaintances to help SPOG in this endeavor. The more people who turn out to support SPOG, the more successful this endeavor will be.

Why Can’t Seattle Attract New Recruits?

5 Years of Service: West Coast Comparables

Ranking	Agency	Monthly Wage
#1	Oakland, CA	\$7,918
#2	San Jose, CA	\$7,586
#3	San Francisco, CA	\$7,525
#4	Long Beach, CA	\$6,309
#5	San Diego, CA	\$6,201
#6	Portland, CA	\$6,099
#7	Sacramento, CA	\$5,865
#8	Seattle, WA	\$5,216



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It Ain't Like It Used To Be Kid, Part II

By Pat Kelly #3180 and Jerry Sampont #3193, SPD Retired

In 1969 Precinct 1 was located at 3rd and James and has since been torn down. The patrol write up room for Precinct 1 was located on the 3rd floor and there was not a lot of new office equipment for patrol officers to use. All typing was done on surplus Boeing Underwood manual typewriters at Boeing surplus desks, which were used until the 1980's. When a report was written it was placed on a carbon sheet called a Solvagraff. As we wrote our report carbon ink was placed on back of the report like a reverse carbon. The report could then be placed on a round drum on a reproduction machine, which turned the drum and report. As the report turned, ink was placed on the raised carbon ink on the back of the report and a copy of the report was made. This allowed the officers working in the Precinct who were called the "HOLE CREW" too make as many copies as the needed. Laugh as you might this was state of the art back then. Report forms were different colors to indicate what sort of report it was, as best as we can remember Major Reports blue and Auto Theft Reports green.

Nearly all of our patrol experience was working King Sector 3rd watch, (2000 hrs to 0400 hrs). King Sector's boundaries were Spokane Street to Seneca Street and I-5 to the waterfront. Precinct 1 was right in the middle of King Sector. At that time there were 12 uniformed patrol officers assigned to King Sector 3rd watch; three two man cars King 1, 2 and 3 and three two man foot beats King 7, 8 and 9. We worked both a two-man car and foot beat. David Sector bordered King Sector to the north. David Sector's boundaries were Denny Way to Seneca Street and I-5 to the waterfront. David Sector 3rd watch usually had 11 or 12 uniformed patrol officers on duty. This met that on 3rd watch downtown from Denny Way to Spokane Street, the waterfront to I-5 there were usually 23 or 24 uniformed patrol officers on duty. This is a far cry from today. We recently had the privilege of riding as observes in King Sector 3rd watch. On our first ride there were only two one-officer cars covering all of King Sector. On the second ride there were only four one-officer cars covering all of King Sector and there are no foot beats. Back then when you were assigned to patrol you worked uniformed patrol, the only exception being occasionally each squad might have a plain clothes unmarked car. Today patrol officers are assigned to work in other SPD units and outside agencies with no replacements coming back to patrol.

In 1969 Precinct 1 was home for the SPD Command Staff, Detective Division, Communications, Evidence Room, Traffic Division, Precinct 1 Patrol Division, Records Division, Warrants Division, Traffic and Misdemeanor Courts. On the sixth floor was the SPD jail, which housed only SPD misdemeanor male prisoners and

both SPD felony and misdemeanor female prisoners. Male felony prisoners were booked across the street in the King County jail. The SPD jail had a feature called the Drunk Tank. It was a large cell in which all four sides sloped down to a drain in the center. Anyone who was arrested for Drunk in Public or DWI (DUI today) was put in the Drunk Tank. At that time we could make arrests for being Drunk in Public. Working in King Sector we handled a lot of drunken winos or as we called them De Horns (Horns for short). Story has it that back in the old days winos drank cattle De Horning alcohol hence the name Horn. Drunken arrests were called "Straight Up Bookings" which meant that these arrests did not have to be screened by a Sergeant. They went "straight up" to the jail. The jail had "Repeater Cards" with names and other information on them that allowed an individual that was repeatedly booked on Drunk in Public charges to be booked with all the necessary information on the Booking Sheet even when he/she was too drunk to respond to questions. These folks were all assigned the same residential address: 77 South Washington, the Union Gospel Mission. The Horns had the Drunk Tank all figured out. No matter how drunk they were they still knew the laws of physics and would crawl to the topside outer perimeter of the drunk tank. They knew that any and all body fluids coming out of a drunken prisoner would run down hill and if they were at the upper perimeter they would not be at the receiving end of any of these fluids.

There was a Patrol Wagon that we could call if there were a lot of drunks. Commonly called "The Wagon", it was an old Dodge van with wooden seats on each side in the back. When the Wagon had a full load of inebriants, they were taken to Precinct 1 and booked "Straight Up". Being assigned to work the Wagon was not usually considered to be choice duty. Many times we would haul the "Horns" to jail ourselves in our patrol car. You have never smelled anything as foul as a Horn that has been on a drunk, had a fecal emergency and used his pants as a bathroom. This was more commonly known then as "The Wine Sh—s". Another great benefit of working King Sector was we had to search all the Horns before we booked them. In the

wintertime many had two or three sets of clothes on to keep them warm. Working in Skid Road was the only job we knew of where you washed your hands before you went to the bathroom. If the winter weather got very cold these enterprising Horns would commit some small misdemeanor crime in front of us so they could get booked into jail and get out of the cold. Most of the Horns were fairly good folks and when one would get 30, 60 or 90 days in jail for Drunk in Public it would provide them with the opportunity to get cleaned up, three square meals a day and a place to sleep other than the street. Some were assigned as Trustees that gave them duties outside the jail such as washing Prowler cars and pumping gas at the Precincts. Eventually, as the City of Seattle became more concerned and involved with the health and welfare of the "Street People" and we were required to take the Horns to a Detox Center where social workers would counsel them on the evils of drinking and then put them back on the street; another great social program.

During the time we worked King Sector (1969-1975), it was primarily populated by hookers, drug dealers, drug users, Horns and street thugs. Crimes in Skid Road generally consisted of strong-arm robberies, assaults, car prowls, shootings, stabbings, drugs and prostitution. Prior to the gentrification of Skid Road taverns like the J and M, Central, Arlington and Yankee Clipper were just Skid Road bars occupied by the Horn clientele that generally populated the area. Having 12 officers in King Sector allowed us to get out of our car, walk the flophouse hotels, taverns and talk to people on the street. We were able to get to know everyone in our district. In 1969 there were no computers so we maintained our own 3x5 card index file of suspicious people in our district. Anyone we didn't recognize we would do a "Stop and Shake" and a search for weapons. Weapons we thought could be considered dangerous would be confiscated. Lower First Avenue (Beat 3K1, Yesler Way to Seneca St) was populated with Pan Rooms that were called the "Dime Nasties" (it took a dime to get a 30 second view of the pornographic loop film), Horn taverns, flophouse hotels such as the Morrison, the Standard and the Terrace View, strip theaters and pornographic theatres.

In 1969 we had laws that helped us to keep the streets of Seattle clean and safe. Some of the more useful City Ordinance's were Drunk in Public, Begging, Juvenile Curfew and Juvenile Runaway, Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor (CDOM), which meant if you were an adult (over 18) and out with a minor after curfew you could be cited or arrested. The best ordinance we had was "16046; Section 1; Disorderly Conduct" which could be used when all else failed. Sometime during the 70's these City Ordinances were determined to be unconstitutional.

On the third floor of Precinct 1 next to Patrol was the Crime Analysis Unit that kept track of all crimes in the city. The Crime Analysis Unit had maps of the city, one map for each watch. The Crime Analysis Officer would use different colored pins to show the type of crime and the address where it occurred. There were copies of the Major Reports corresponding to these pins for additional information such as suspect description, etc. We could see at a glance what types of crimes were occurring in your district and if there were any patterns. Supervisors also looked at these maps. One time our Capitan called us aside and said "You have a strong-arm robbery problem in your district, take care of it". That's all he had to say, and "that's the way it was back then". We were responsible for our district and were expected to keep it safe and take care of problems.

Other than our time prior to the academy and during our FTO training we spent all our uniform time working together in 3K1 (the car beat) and 3K9 (the foot beat) which later became the King sector plain clothes car. Our recollections are limited to the Skid Road area during the time when we worked uniform patrol from 1969 to 1975. We hope that other officers will contribute their experiences of working on SPD. Every generation of Police Officers can tell you, "ItAin't like It Used to Be, Kid" but looking back we can now say "Those Were The Good Old Days".

Comments to Kelly and Sampont can be sent to: twooldrelics@hotmail.com

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PHIL THOM KAREN COBB BILL NEAL

Why the NPP Will Not Work

By Sergeant Wayne Ferguson, West Precinct

We already learned this lesson 1969: the staffing plan suspiciously known as NPP will not work at our present staffing levels. By the time this article is printed, we will have been on this plan for at least a month so you can judge for yourself as to how it’s worked. I say “suspiciously” known as NPP because the name “Neighborhood Policing Plan” seems to suggest the department will somehow be able to afford a more neighborhood friendly approach such as neighborhood store front offices or community service officers.

The truth is that this plan will suffer the same fate as the one in 1969 (I worked the power shift, 2300 to 0700) and will make officers and citizens less, rather than more, safe. The basic problem, as I recall, was that the in-squad relief model essentially destroyed squad unity. Not seeing your sergeant for weeks at a time combined with the inability of sergeants to coordinate with each other, for much of the same reasons, doomed it. The 2008 version also changes the district boundaries to quote: “even up the call load”, with little apparent regard to response time related to traversing natural geographic obstacles such as I-5, Aurora, and bodies of water. This lack of consideration to what has always been the gold standard of police departments; “response time”, the time it takes a cop to get to your door when you call 911, was very startling to me. I think that if you asked any citizen what is more important to them, the time to their door in an emergency or the balancing of the new standard of “service hours” between districts, he’d stare at you as if you were one of the apparent techno-nerd mouth breathers who came up with this plan.

Download the NPP plan (it’s available on the Department website) and check it out for yourself. Page 3 states that we need 154 additional officers to make this plan functional. It says that 49 officers have been added since 2005. Really? It also says that 105 will be added between 2008 and 2012. Like that will happen. More to the point, it looks like we’ll have to work 26.4% under-staffed under the new plan until 2012. But wait, there’s more; on page 23 it states that budget realities may force a delay in the plan, so in reality, we’ll most likely never see any new officers. This reality is buttressed by the harsh facts related to: 1) the low numbers of applicants to our Department, 2) the high numbers of laterals from our department (four that I know of and another four rumored from the West Precinct, alone), 3) the limited number of spaces available to SPD in the State Academy, 4) projected retirements, and the most important of all, 5) this liberal city government doesn’t really want any more officers.

Look, none of this is going to affect me since I’m retiring soon (dependent

on if and when we receive a contract), but I have a lifetime investment in this police family of ours and I’m sick of seeing these amateur politicians, masquerading as policemen, screwing it up. Any staffing plan will work if you have enough officers to support it. Unfortunately, we barely have enough patrol officers to scrape by with the plan we have, which by the way, has worked for over 30 years.

Let’s take a look at how this plan came into being; Peter Bellmio came to Seattle in 2002 and did a study using a computer model he had developed in another city, to study the effectiveness (I’m sure with an eye toward justifying reducing the number of officers) of the Department. Mr. Bellmio actually rode around with my squad in 2002 and we got to know the study pretty well. As a matter of fact, a copy of that study has languished in my desk since then. Upon re-discovering it, I was surprised to see the amount of yellow highlighter I had applied to it in 2002. The new NPP (Neighborhood Policing Project) is partially based on the Bellmio study. I brought my dog-eared copy of the study to the NPP training last month and unfortunately for Chief Kimmerer, there were only three people, besides me, in attendance. I have to admit he was pretty good natured and absorbed all the hard body shots with nary a whimper but could give no real reason or goal for it’s implementation beyond some technocratic need to balance the call load between districts. Apparently the new bug-a-boo is cross-district and, god forbid, cross-sector dispatching. There’s no real mystery to solving these issues; give us more troops, DUH!!!

I asked him if the Bellmio study was used as a basis for the new plan and told him of the flaws we had found in it, not the least of which was the fact the study left out all First Watch data, including hours, arrests, and most on-view arrests since Bellmio’s program apparently couldn’t capture most on-view incidents because they didn’t include a dispatch and arrival time, due to some type of computer glitch. Chief Kimmerer assured me, though, that they only used about one-third of the Bellmio study in the final plan. Great, our new plan is based on one-third of a flawed professional study plus two-thirds in-house amateur input, very confidence inspiring.

I reminded him of the fact that we have far fewer officers in Patrol responding to radio calls than what would seem by merely looking at the numbers of personnel who are assigned to Patrol. He responded that the City Council has authorized 105 more officers and then conceded that the NPP plan will need 154 additional officers in order to bring us up to the staffing levels that the plan will require to be fully operational. A little math is in order here. Patrol is staffed

with 429 officers now. This is the number of officers who actually respond to radio calls. It doesn’t include sergeants or clerks or bikes or ACT or CPT or on-loans or any other bogus statistic in order to inflate the numbers of patrolman to the uneducated eye looking at the department roster. 583 (429+154) divided into 154 means that we are going to be 26.4% understaffed at the implementation of the plan, Jan 9, 2008, by the admission of the planners, themselves. This is assuming, also, that all 154 new positions will be assigned to Patrol.

Do you remember, a couple of years ago, when the emphasis was on taking prints on every call and taking every investigation as far as we could take it in patrol? In the West Precinct, anyway, if an officer couldn’t find prints, he was supposed to call a sergeant in order to verify that, indeed, there were no prints. Well, in reviewing the Bellmio study, I found the terms “generalists” and “specialists” used in a manner making it obvious that Mr. Bellmio didn’t know which way the Department wanted to go in terms of the role of Patrol officers. This, plus the different directions that policy and training have taken us in the intervening years, leads me to believe we have had no real direction at all since 2002. Patrol officers as generalists make eminent sense, in an under-staffed Department such as ours, because we can ill-afford many specialist positions (Mr. Bellmio alludes to the fact that we’re understaffed in his study, ergo, the recommended 80 new officers). Why is it, then, that we are so top heavy with detectives and other specialists and so woefully understaffed in patrol, if indeed, the plan du jour was patrol officers as generalists? If your going to change the structure of 40% of the Department, ostensibly because it hasn’t been changed for 30 years, don’t you think it would be wise to take a white paper approach; lay out the objectives, the number of personnel on hand NOW, and utilize all existing personnel in the most effective manner possible?

Okay, so the Council authorized 105 more cops. First we need to attract them as applicants. We haven’t been doing so well lately. It could be because we’ve had no contract for over a year, we are amongst the lowest paid in terms of starting wages in the State, and we seem to have no direction and no support from our command staff or much of the community. Next, we need to train them; six months in BLET and then another four months in the FTO program. So…it looks like we may see a few in a year or so. But wait, how about attrition? I told Chief Kimmerer of the young officers with their paperwork in to lateral to Lakewood, Everett, King and Snohomish Counties. His response was “They’ll

be back; people have left in the past and have usually come back”. I’m afraid the good chief is underestimating the unrest of the great unwashed amongst the ranks due to this apparent pointless shake-up. Apparently the original plan was to make the change just before the Christmas holidays until a lowly sergeant reminded them that this would wreak havoc with several hundred angry officers vacation and secondary employment schedules. How many are ready to go from the other four precincts (the ones I know of are West Precinct) and how many are just waiting for the contract to be signed, with its attendant retro pay, to jump ship? The facts are that young officers can’t afford to live in Seattle so they’ll likely buy or rent a place in the county or smaller town. They are then, obviously, closer to another agency. If that agency will take them as laterals, probably with a pay raise, perhaps a take-home car and possibly a signing bonus, they would be foolish not to lateral. We have the most stringent entry requirements in the state (less degree requirements). We only accept the most qualified applicants, and when another smaller department gets one of our troops, it’s a great coup for them in terms of money saved in training as well as the experience that troop already has.

The only conclusion I can come to is that the command staff is not satisfied as to how we’re doing our jobs since it seems they want to radically change the structure of Patrol in order to more effectively micro-manage us from the eight floor of the ivory tower. I think my opinion reflects those of most of the rank and file when I say that the most important job of the command staff is to provide us with the tools needed to do the job, the most important of which is sufficient personnel. They have not lived up to their responsibilities.

This NPP program is akin to rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic, but as always, we’ll try to make it work since we know what our responsibilities are to the citizens of Seattle.



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Watching the Watchers

By Sergeant Roger Dixon, Vice President

I remember back to earlier times in Seattle when political leaders supported their police. I remember when a councilperson would see a beat officer on the street, stop and exchange greetings, and take time to actually express support for the officer. Not too long ago I was walking downtown in uniform. A council person walked directly toward me, averted eye contact as we approached each other, and made an obvious effort to avoid having to approach a uniform. And I, the usual smiling guy with an approachable attitude am ignored by a city leader, a missed opportunity for contact for both of us. How times have changed.

Have we become so poisonous to some city leaders that even a kindly greeting is forbidden? Don't take this to mean that there aren't supportive members of city government; there are. They know who they are and we have had conversations that lend hope to a better relationship with the rank and file.

However, some politicians and certain media representatives readily launch crusades against Seattle Police Officers. Political attacks against the police are nothing new in history. I am told it makes sellable copy for the press, and puts the political hacks name out in public, and demonstrates to a small and irrelevant group of law enforcement critics they are in control of the police.

Control of the police indeed, we are the most watched, monitored and held accountable piece of the city

government puzzle. Every computer keystroke we make is captured and analyzed, video and audio monitors follow our every move in the car and at the precinct. GPS tracking ensures our exact location is known. Multiple layers of supervision digest our moment by moment activities while at work. Our uniform is inspected, our reports are reviewed with a fine tooth comb, and our conduct is scrutinized to the eighth degree. And don't forget, if there is a complaint made against us while off-duty, we are subject to further investigation and scrutiny, and anything recorded on or by us is subject to public disclosure.

Oversight has been accomplished; the watchers of public safety are being watched by a small group of political zealots whose express purpose seems to be further scrutiny of the police. Enabling and supporting them are some media outlets, whose financial stake in the scheme seems to outweigh their quest for good, clean, accountable government. Mission accomplished.

Comments have been made in past articles that political leaders influence every aspect of our job. Connect the dots; political action through and by SPOG members and our supporters has a direct correlation to people in positions of power. They are not immune from accountability. There may not be audio and video devices watching their every move, and they don't face a job that is often dirty and violent, but make no mistake about it they are being watched. We are watching!



Happy Anniversary

The Guardian Staff is pleased to announce the milestones achieved by the following SPOG members during the month of March!



25 years of Service

Sergeant Jake Magan, West Precinct
Sergeant Brian Miles, OPA-IS

20 years of Service

Sergeant Ted Visaya, East Precinct
Detective Phil Wall, B/T West
Officer Hope Bauer, North Precinct
Officer Dale Giese, East Precinct

15 years of Service

Detective Maria Ditusa, SAU
Detective Sean Jenkins, B/T West
Detective John Vradenburg, SAU
Officer Mike Cruzan, North Precinct
Officer Kipp Strong, North Precinct

10 years of Service

Detective Liz Litalien, DV
Detective Jess (Free Jess) Pitts, SAU
Detective Don Waters, Gangs
Officer George Abed, West Precinct
Officer Damon Deese, South Precinct
Officer Camilo Depina, West Precinct
Officer Dan Espinoza, West Precinct
Officer Anna Green, West Precinct
Officer Mike Lancaster, SW Precinct
Officer Trish McDonald, West Precinct
Officer Amber McLeod, East Precinct
Officer Dirk Patin, East Precinct
Officer Juan Tovar, West Precinct
Officer Don Witmer, North Precinct

The Seattle Police Motorcycle Drill Team presents:

2008 Talent Show

Friday, March 21, 5 pm

Seattle Police Range Pavilion

Still! \$25 per person

Call Mike Henry 206 799-1175 To Perform

Call now for tickets: Sgt. Brian Johnson 206-733-9189 Or any Drill Team member

Headline Entertainment

Dinner and Beverages

New Raffle Format and Prizes

Dancing among the stars

Music by "Kevin O'Neill"

Retired News

By Mike Germann

New Retirements

Nothing new to publish this month, but next month there may be three and possibly more to announce to you.

Pension Office Business

The transition of Police Pension Office staff is complete. John Sullivan’s retired and a long-time pension board member, Tom Grabicki has taken his place.
TOM’S DOING A GREAT JOB PROCESSING AND PAYING MEDICAL CLAIMS, DENTAL CLAIMS, MEDICARE AND OTHER PAYMENTS. So, if you have a question about any of your bills and/or claims, CALL TOM GRABICKI at (206) 386-1287. His e-mail address is thomas.grabicki@seattle.gov. Tom will do his very best to take care of your needs. A reminder to submit your medical/dental bills and claims in a timely fashion. Any E.O.B.’s (explanation of benefits) documents you receive showing balances owing, the Police Pension Office needs to see. Don’t assume we have it. Send all E.O.B.’s to us along with bills received/paid by you, etc. if you want Police Pension to pay.

Seattle Police Relief and Pension Fund ’07 Recap

During the fiscal year 2007, Police Pension spent a total of \$16,877,157.64 on medical and pension benefits for its 1181 members on our roles. Only 53 LEOFF I Seattle Police Officers are still on active duty. The rest of the LEOFF I’s are all retired.

- o ’07 pensions paid by the Seattle Police Pension Fund were \$6,006,640.81;
- o ’07 medical claims paid by the Seattle Police Pension Fund were \$10,477,552.81.

Did you ever wonder where all the money to pay for Seattle Police pensions and medical care comes from? Some think it comes from the State of Washington – NOPE! Some think there’s an account in a bank someplace – WRONG! All the monies paid out from the Seattle Police Relief and Pension Fund come from the City of Seattle General Fund, period! You all need to hope that the Seattle economy/tax base remains strong.

December 2007 LEOFF I Medical Benefits Report

The Washington State Actuary, Matt Smith, at the behest of the Washington State Legislature, has published a 42 page report on the state-wide cost of LEOFF I medical benefits for both police officers and firefighters now and into the future. The actuarial accrued liability (AAL) is enormous - \$1,745,427 (in thousands, 000). That’s serious money and all of you need to pay attention to what’s going on with your pension and medical benefits. DO NOT ASSUME THAT NOTHING CAN HAPPEN WITH YOUR RETIREMENT BENEFITS. Pay attention to folks like Jerry Taylor, the current Retired Seattle Police Officers’ Association President. The LEOFF I Coalition is another state-wide organization of police-fire retirees who carefully watch for in-roads into your retirement benefits. Try to go to a Retired Seattle Police Officers’ Association meeting if you’re in town and able to attend. Meetings are always the 2nd Wednesday of each month starting at about 11:30 a.m. at the Four Seas Restaurant at 8th South and South King Street. You’ll see old friends there but more importantly you’ll find out if anything is going on that poses a threat to your retirement benefits and what you can do to help.
BE THERE IF YOU CAN MAKE IT!

Pension Board’s New Chair

The Seattle Police Pension Board is going to have a new Chair for the 2008-2009 biennium. Committee

assignments at the Seattle City Council have changed and it’s now time for Mayor Greg Nickels (the statutory chair of the Seattle Police Pension Board) to name a new Chair/Mayor’s Designee. It is likely that the Mayor is going to appoint newly elected Seattle City Councilmember, and Chair of the City Council’s Public Safety Committee, TIM BURGESS as the new Chair of the Seattle Police Pension Board for 2008-2009. Tim Burgess was a LEOFF I Seattle Police Officer for over seven years from May 13, 1971 until October 20, 1978. That’s a big plus in the LEOFF I pension office business.

The former Mayor’s designee/Pension Board Chair Nick Licata served honorably and well for 2006-2007 and we thank him for his service on the Board of Trustees of the Seattle Police Relief and Pension Fund.

Retired Seattle Police Officers’ Association News

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting
February 13, 2008

Vice-president Dick Rovig called the meeting to order at noon in the dining room of the Four Seas restaurant, February 13th 2008.

Teri MacMillan led the Pledge of Allegiance and Rovig asked everyone to remain standing for a moment of silence for Davis Hart who passed away last Sunday following a long illness in Palm Desert, CA.

Roll call of officers showed Rovig, Nick Bulpin, Mike Slessman, and Paul Peterson to be present with President Taylor, Pat Munter, John Sullivan, and John Nordlund being excused.

Rovig directed attention to the minutes of the last monthly meeting as well as the minutes of a rather lengthy board meeting held January 28th. Dick Sherwood moved the minutes be accepted, seconded by Dwaine Coverson and passed.

Nick Bulpin gave the financial report and asked it be submitted for audit. Motion made by John Guich, seconded by Dick Sherwood and passed.

Rovig then gave a report of a recent WACOP’s meeting in which some good news was revealed that we have legislature representatives that have committed to opposing any attempt to consolidate pension boards throughout the state. There is no progress on the Medical Pension Study which has been the works for over a year at the request of the Governor.

Rovig acknowledged Moses Gallow and Harold Haley as first time attendees and welcomed them.

Rovig then turned the meeting over to Pete Farmasonis, former owner of the Greek Village. Pete considered his restaurant, located across from the Public Safety building, as precinct 4. He came know a lot of police officers in the years he was there. He closed 29 years ago but still remembered several of those in attendance. He was grateful to have been invited to lunch and renew those friendships. Rovig presented Pete with an honorary badge and indicated he is officially a member of the RSPOA.

Rovig presented the restaurant manager, Julie, with an autographed picture of Julie with Congressman, Dave Reichert who attended the January meeting. She was very thankful.

There being no further business Myron Maxwell moved for adjournment at 12:40, seconded by Bulpin. 42 people in attendance then enjoyed another great lunch.

Nick Bulpin, Secretary/Treasurer

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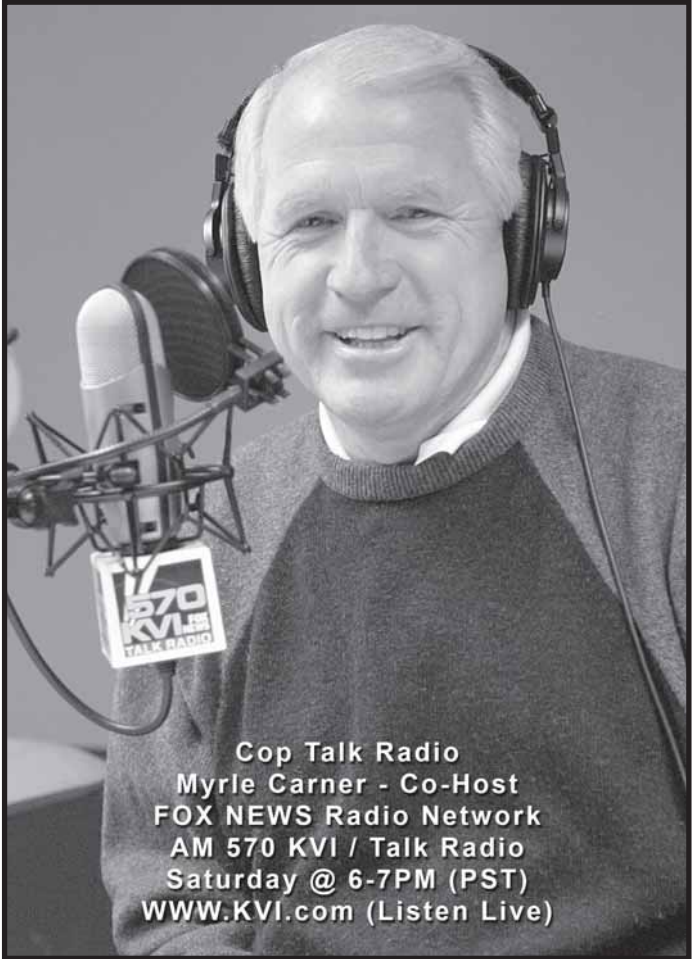
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March 2008 Retirees’ Birthdays

Gerald B. **Adams** (1), Bonnie C. **Bartley** (16), Anita “Kaye” **Beeson** (11), Lee D. **Benjamin** (13), Karl G. **Bergstrom** (23), Jerald A. **Bickford** (1), Lorraine J. **Bowerman** (23), William P. **Brandner** (17), Robert E. **Caruth** (13), Dorothy M. **Cathey** (20), Michael R. **Chamness** (21), Michael **Chartrand** (29), Alan J. **Citron** (31), Donald R. **Coble** (14), Thomas M. **Cook** (4), James L. **Cvar** (7), Clara R. **Dempsey** (1), John H. **Dinse** (10), Warren T. **Dutcher** (9), Mona E. **Elliott** (25), David M. **Estes** (26), William G. **Evans** (22), William F. **Fenkner** (23), Harvey D. **Ferguson, Iii** (9), Bonnie **Fitch** (14), Daniel S. **Fordice** (25), Wayne R. **Fox** (1), Edward L. **Francis** (9), Stanley K. **Fridell** (2), Walter E. **Furler** (4), Robert C. **Garnett** (4), Robert A. **Gebo** (27), John E. **Gergich, Jr** (20), Edward W. **Grant** (26), Gary A. **Greene** (28), Henry T. **Gruber** (17), Michael D. **Hagler** (26), Rolene L. **Hardy** (1), Thomas L. **Helms** (29), Richard W. **Herron** (21), Wallace E. **Hingtgen** (10), John D. **Hoffard** (2), Steven L. **Jarvis** (30), Theodore E. **Jensen** (12), Edward H. **Joiner** (20), Lawrence D. **Jones** (26), Gracie Kay **Lange** (20), Robert L. **Lisoski** (13), Larry L. **Lynne** (26), Walter R. **Maning** (26), Myron C. **Maxwell** (12), Robert N. **McDonald** (5), Steven D. **McDonald** (18), Daniel P. **McFadden** (1), William J. **Mineo** (14), William F. **Moffat** (26), John M. **Moffat** (26), Neil W. **Moloney** (10), Waldo F. **Morell** (17), James R. **Muir** (25), Patrick W. **Murphy** (17), Darla Ann **Murphy** (25), Dolores **Myers** (11), Constance **Porter** (31), Norman M. **Putnam** (9), Ernest R. **Randall** (30), Ned J. **Richmond** (3), Francis C. **Riley** (7), Donald J. **Robinson** (29), Ronald E. **Schimke** (24), Glenn R. **Scott** (3), Michael T. **Scott** (10), Terry R. **Shipp** (30), David N. **Sorensen** (14), R. Alan **Sorensen** (30), Fred G. **Still, Jr** (18), James D. **Stitt** (2), Steven L. **Stokke** (1), Donald H. **Talmadge** (13), Dennis D. **Tichi** (4), Jack J. **Vale** (28), Daniel J. **Vanmill** (3), Donald F. **Vert** (20), Paula J. **Viegas** (5), Craig S. **Vold** (2), Lily M. **Vonallmen** (31), Robert P. **Waitt** (27), Manuel E. **Washington** (1), Gary L. **Weyers** (31), Bruce H. **White** (3), Milton D. **Wilson** (25), Pamela R. **Zarko** (3)

The Ol’ Blue Clan Reunion & Golf Tournament

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Davis N. “Dave” Hart, #923, retired Seattle Police Lieutenant and former Port of Seattle Police Official, passed away on February 10, 2008 at his home in Rancho Mirage, California. He was 81 years of age upon his death. The last several years were a struggle for Dave as his health gradually declined. He never complained.

Davis N. Hart was born on May 14, 1926. He was appointed a “Patrolman” of the Seattle Police Department on April 1, 1948. He served with Seattle Police for 22 years and vested on April 30, 1970. He was promoted twice, to Sergeant on March 7, 1961 and to Lieutenant on January 1, 1969. Following his service with the Seattle Police Department, Dave joined the Port of Seattle Police Department under then Chief Neil Maloney for six years. Dave Hart was a narcotics investigator for most of his police career. He was an expert in that field of police work.

Dave Hart was preceded in death by his loving wife of 54 years, Janice “Jan” Hart, who passed away on November 11, 2006. Surviving are two sons, Davis Hart and Robert Hart, a brother Don and five grandchildren.

Funeral arrangements are pending in southern California. Dave Hart’s family and many friends will miss him. He was one of those exceptional people you would want for a close friend. Just ask Dave Ritter, retired Seattle Police Homicide Detective Sergeant.

Phil Halverson, retired Sergeant, called to inform the Pension Office of his wife’s death:



Ralph W. Zottman, #624, retired Seattle Police Captain passed away very peacefully on February 17, 2008 at the Life Care Center in West Seattle. He was three months over 100 years of age upon his death.

Ralph Zottman was born on December 2, 1907. He was appointed a “Patrolman” of the Seattle Police Department on January 1, 1944. Like many of his generation, he was called to military duty during World War II. Upon his return to police service, he was assigned both as a motorcycle officer and motorcycle sergeant for over seven years. On January 1, 1951, he was promoted from the rank of Sergeant to Police Captain. (In those days, the rank of lieutenant did not exist.) Captain Zottman served as a Captain until his retirement on August 24, 1970 with over 26 years of active service. “CAPTAIN Z” ALWAYS TOOK CARE OF THE OFFICERS HE COMMANDED. TRULY, HE WAS ONE OF SEATTLE’S FINEST.

Surviving are a daughter, Jean, and three sons, Archie, Bill and Dick and their immediate families. Dick Zottman is also a retired Seattle Police Officer. Ralph’s wife, Loretta, preceded him in death in 1992. They had been married for 58 years.

Finally, for his friendship and attention to Ralph Zottman, retired Motorcycle Sergeant Paul Peterson deserves SPECIAL THANKS and OUR RESPECT for all he did and currently does for not only Captain “Z” but all of our retired Seattle Police Officers.



Elizabeth Halverson passed away on December 9, 2007, in Mesa, Arizona at 78 years of age. She and Phil Halvorson had been married for 51 years.

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Detective Don Cameron Shine Ceremonial July 12, 2008.

Contact Jerry Smith 206-876-1701 for more information.

Editor’s Notes

By Detective Ron Smith, Editor



Nice try Mr. Mayor, but it ain’t gonna work! Your ill advised plan to conquer and divide SPOG’s troops on February 26th by sending out the top brass of the Department to try and sell your “offer” by direct bargaining has blown up in your corpulent face! The rank and file officers, detectives and sergeants are pissed off Mr. Mayor about your tactics! What about confidentiality in talks/ negotiations does your administration not understand? Your people were the ones who came crawling on their knees looking to try and make a deal with SPOG outside of mediation to get your OPA fluff negotiated before 2010. Maybe you got frightened knowing that SPOG held an informational picket captain meeting on February 25th, and decided to make a preemptive strike. Your top henchman said the gloves would come off if SPOG started informational picketing outside of your throne, guess what Mr. Mayor, the gloves are off and it’s down to bare knuckles, just like the “Gypsy” Jem Mace days.

If the truth were told, trying to conquer and divide by directly bargaining with the rank and file was only part of your plan. The larger part was to pander to “Joe LunchBucket,” through the media, hoping that without knowing what the devil was in the details, Joe would be appalled that SPOG refused 22% over 4-years. Hopefully Joe will get hip to the fact that SPD is languishing way down the pay scale as compared to the West Coast Seven, and that Seattle is not even close to paying their cops TOP money in Washington! How come the Chief of Police is the highest paid police chief in Washington, and rightly so, but this city cannot, or will not find the money to pay its rank and file at the same level? Given what you ask of these officers these days, that is simply appalling! Mr. Mayor you have underestimated the resolve of this rank and file. Maybe you got bad advice from some folks who only spent a couple years with SPOG before ascending through the ranks. After the February 26th bum rush at roll calls, the phones rang off the hook at the SPOG Office with pissed off officers wanting to know why they were being sold snake oil by the brass. On February 27th at the Guild General Membership meeting, over 200 officers, detectives and sergeants packed the office to express their outrage at your tactics. Ironically, maybe we actually owe you a thank you Mr. Mayor for awaking a napping lion, as the normal average attendance at a monthly meeting hovers around 25 members. It’s a good thing the fire marshal didn’t stop by, or we would have had to move to the parking lot. The only thing missing was “Ten Thousand Fists” blaring over the speakers.

To my fellow Guild members, stand strong and be proud! I am extremely proud of your turnout on February 27th, that’s what I call unity. With unity there is strength, and strength will persevere!

I encourage anyone with an opinion about the egregious action by the city to send their comments to me at spogguardian@yahoo.com. Until next month, be safe out there! “If a policy is wrongheaded, feckless and corrupt, I take it personally and consider it a moral obligation to sound off and not shut up until it’s fixed.” – Colonel David Hackworth.

Attention all SPD Officers with Graduating High School Seniors

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Calendar of Events

SPD Family Support Group Meeting at Southwest Precinct
Thursday, March 6th at 1800 hours

Seattle Police Relief Association board meeting at the SPRAG Office
Wednesday, March 12th at 1300 hours

Ol’ Blue Clan Reunion, Phoenix Arizona
Saturday, March 15th and Sunday March 16th

Seattle Police Officers’ Guild general membership meeting at the SPOG Office
Wednesday, March 26th at 2000 hours

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Important Date!!!!

SPOG Membership Meeting
Wednesday, March 26th
2000 hours
Complimentary Dinner All Members Welcome